

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

b' (c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flectional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over substantially an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber, wherein said intermediate layer comprises, at least in the metatarsal area, a succession of rigid inserts arranged in alternating fashion perpendicularly to the axis of torsion of said sole, so as to obtain good flexibility under flection while preserving good stiffness under torsion.

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#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

New Claim 32 has been introduced. Claim 32 corresponds to Claim 17 except that it recites that the intermediate layer extends over "substantially" an entire surface of said ground contact layer. Basis for the "substantially an entire" recitation is found in the Examiner's allegation that the word "entire" excludes the insert arrangement recited in Claim 17 and shown in Figures 7-8.

Applicants wish to thank examiner Patterson for the courtesy of an interview on March 6, 2003 at which time the outstanding rejections were discussed. No agreement was